



To: Auckland Council

Submission on: Long Term Plan (2021-2031)

Name of submitter: Civic Trust Auckland

Date: 22 March, 2021

## Introduction

- 1 Civic Trust Auckland (Civic Trust) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with membership, activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. Its aims include the protection of natural landforms, the preservation of heritage in all its aspects, the encouragement of good planning for the city and region, and the promotion of public interest in the environment.
- 2 Civic Trust has made submissions on a wide range of Council planning documents from the inception of Auckland and since then on an on-going basis. Civic has made submissions on previous Long Term Plans and recently provided feedback at a Regional Stakeholders meeting at Council's Finance and Performance Committee on 10 March 2021.

## Planning

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Resource Management Act will soon be replaced by three acts that will each separately deal with development, the environment and climate change. Until the RMA is replaced, Council remains obliged to recognise and provide for various matters of deemed national importance, including the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. The definition of the environment from the RMA, "includes ecosystems and their constituent parts including people and communities, all natural and *physical resources*, amenity values and the social an economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in those paragraphs."
- 3.2 While Civic Trust supports Council's work in cleaning up the environment and its focus on water and those natural aspects of the natural environment, we have long had a concern that there hasn't been significant enough focus on the physical environment and in particular historic heritage.

- 3.3 Civic Trust believes that historic heritage comprised of both individual places and areas of collective character are an asset to the city worth preserving and we support public expenditure as necessary to ensure 'historic heritage' is both recognised and protected. Part of that protection involves the provision of effective incentives that recognise the collective benefit enjoyed by everyone by retaining of elements of historic heritage.
- 3.4 Sir David Attenborough asked the question: "If you could get the youth to take on board one message, what would it be?" His answer was: "Stop wasting things." There is focus on waste recovery but also in terms of our physical resources, we are really wasteful and we knock down things; we knock down heritage buildings to put up replacement buildings. Council must give weight to the concept of 'embodied energy' and consider the full range of costs associated with building waste. With further analysis, adaptation may be a preferred outcome. For example, in Parnell a beautiful building not scheduled, not recognised but full of kauri, pressed tin ceilings, stained glass windows, not reused but instead just smashed up and put in a skip. That sort of thing needs to stop.

## **Climate Change**

- 4.0 We are also concerned about matters of the natural environment and the Climate Action Framework. We want our city to be super and we want it to be liveable, and a place that people like. Civic Trust supports the Council's recognition of the challenges posed by Climate Change and the need for its future decision-making to be undertaken looking through a climate change lens.

## **Action**

- 5.0 Searching both the consultation document and the supporting information for the Long Term Plan, including the CCO's, the term "historic heritage" does not register. That is because it has been subsumed within the term 'cultural heritage' where insufficient priority and funding is provided for historic heritage.
- 5.1 Council's Heritage Advisory Panel has provided advice on long-term plans in the past. The panel suggested that there be incentive funds for heritage. There are virtually no perceptible heritage incentive funds. This will lead to the inevitable loss of our heritage. As far back as April 2008, the City Development Committee, Auckland City drew up a Heritage Policy Review Incentives under Penny Pirritt. We're years down the track from 2008 and still no effective incentives. If one looks at the Auckland Plan and some of the work streams that were supposed to be given effect to, one was to develop information resources in conjunction with Heritage New Zealand. That hasn't happened. Another one was the development of a comprehensive set of incentives. To our knowledge, that hasn't happened really.

CHAPTER 4: AUCKLAND'S HISTORIC HERITAGE			
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4		PROTECT AND CONSERVE AUCKLAND'S HISTORIC HERITAGE FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS	
PRIORITY 1 – UNDERSTAND, VALUE AND SHARE OUR HERITAGE			
DIRECTIVE 4.1 TO 4.3			
ACTION	DELIVERY LEAD	KEY STAKEHOLDERS	TIMING
3. Provide a comprehensive and coordinated information service for Auckland's historic heritage	NZHPT, Auckland Council	New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Department of Conservation, iwi, community and private sector	2015
PRIORITY 2 – INVEST IN OUR HERITAGE			
DIRECTIVE 4.4 TO 4.6			
ACTION	DELIVERY LEAD	KEY STAKEHOLDERS	TIMING
1. Develop a suite of incentives to conserve heritage, in partnership with private owners and developers	Auckland Council	Central government, New Zealand Historic Places Trust and private sector	2015

- 5.3 We would like funds allocated to both the comprehensive collection and assimilation of information about Auckland's historic heritage, and also the development of and provision of a comprehensive set of incentives, including financial ones.
- 5.4 There is a water quality and natural environment targeted rate. Civic Trust would like to consideration to be given to a targeted rate for the built environment.
- 5.5 In terms of the key issue 1 in the budget, the proposed investment package, we support under 'Parks and Communities' the focus on the **Leys Institute** and we support the expenditure of sufficient public funds to ensure that project is completed.

Yours faithfully,



Audrey van Ryn (Secretary)

On behalf of:  
**Civic Trust Auckland**

Dated: 22 March, 2021

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